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Attachment 1 to
IAC-D-57/9.2
17 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : Progress Report on Action Taken Pursuant
to IAC Post-Mortem on NIE 11-5-55, Air
Defense of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, 1955-1960
(IAC-D-57/9, 23 August 1955)

1. In compliance with its responsibilities under paragraph 5 of subject IAC post-mortem, the Scientific Estimates Committee submits the following progress report of measures taken by the intelligence community to overcome intelligence deficiencies with respect to probable operational capabilities of Soviet radars.

2. It has been found difficult to obtain complete agreement of technical experts on the operational performance of any radars, including US radars whose characteristics are accurately known. Nevertheless SEC members are in unanimous agreement on the pressing need to determine the performance characteristics of Soviet radars to the greatest possible extent. Accordingly, the SEC acted in January 1956 to sponsor a coordinated, all-source research program on Soviet radars. The program consists of two phases: (a) community agreement on assumptions of parameters to be used in estimating radar characteristics, and (b) production of an agreed estimate of operational capabilities of Soviet radars. The SEC will endeavor to complete this study during the current quarter of Calendar Year 1956. It is anticipated that a community position on Soviet radars will be achieved by this means in ample time for the next NIE on Sino-Soviet Air Defense, now scheduled for the first quarter of Calendar Year 1957.

3. In addition to their active participation in the SEC-sponsored program described above, Army, Navy, Air Force, and CIA report a general strengthening of their collective and individual research efforts with regard to Soviet radars. These member agencies have also intensified their efforts to improve the quality and scope of intelligence

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collection with regard to Soviet radars by (a) increasing emphasis on the development and circulation of coordinated information requirements on Soviet radars; (b) intensifying support to the ELINT effort as the primary source for intelligence information on Soviet radars; (c) further developing existing research programs for technical aids to electronic intelligence collection; and (d) improving coordination with research and development activities.

[Redacted Signature]

Chairman
Scientific Estimates Committee

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